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1/35 Figures - Hacking and Painting



The glass bottles contain premixes of paint.

I tried many ways but old

fashioned oil wins the race for 1/35 figures. here's what I have learned along the way:

FACE PAINTING

I have



These have been base-coated in white which is good for dark plastic because it is not stark and is essential to produce the flesh-tones

Windsor and Newton Oils, but most will do base-paint with light gray or white

FLESH COLOR

7 parts white. titanium but ivory will do also
1 part burnt sienna

mix really well. . . I mix a quantity thin it out a bit and

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save it in a glass bottle. I had really nice plastic clear pots with tight lids and stored a batch in them, and after 3 days both the containers and the paint was a waste because the containers had cracked . . . THEREFORE! . . . oil paint and plastic is not a good mix.

that is a good all purpose base. . .I pull a bit out on a pallet and add in other hues as needed, a "dot" of crimson red for female skin or children's cheeks

Burnt umber to shade and darken
increase burnt umber for darker skin

try using a buttery yellow -(1 part Yellow mixed with 4 or more white) take just a bit of this and mix into a similar amount of the base preparation for highlights.

I have extra clean dry brushes on hand to blend, shade, or remove paint where it is not wanted- the eyes!! always the eyes!

I'm no expert just sharing what is working for me so far.

My Sweetheart got the finest brushes from Micro-Mark for me and I love them.

here are various shots in progress



A group of them. . some are a bit scarier than others!

The 2 cooks on the far right are pretty-much done. . all remains is to accent shadows etc that will be the tone from the diorama when it gets built.

The figure of a student is supposed to be a female student. . unfortunately her feet are bigger than that of a soldier and so is her face which is squarish. She makes a good piece to practice on as I sure don't intend to place her anywhere soon.



None of these guys have on anything but the base coat

strange trip it's been!

The best of Twitter according to
Katzi



MiKatzi The Itch to Etch!
<http://bit.ly/ano08V> via
@AddToAny
142 days ago

twitter Join the conversation

and the base flesh color.



This cook is near! completion

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June 12th, 2010 | Category: Follow along, How-To, Paints, Thinners, and Solvents, Review - Model, Review - Reference, Tips and Techniques, Tools for Modelmaking | [Leave a comment](#)

Dusty Vacuum Chamber

I was beginning to want to work more with resins and had other things that would be best done inside a negative air chamber to draw out all the bad dust.



I had a nicely beveled piece of glass and drew a plan from that. I used a type of core-board that I also had used for a large paint-booth, and a free-standing photo booth and I had enough left over for this project. So after cutting twice and measuring repeatedly I had a plan. I wanted the glass to be at a 45° angle so I planned the side pieces first. I then planned the back, the floor, and the

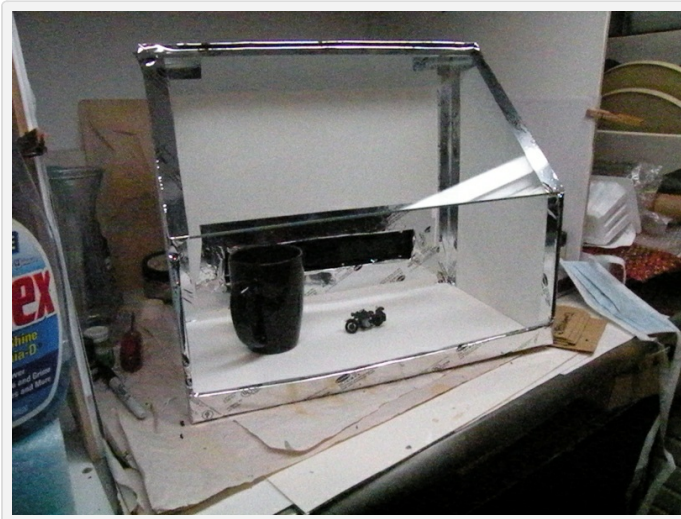
front lip to be cut only part way in so that there would be a bend instead of trying to join them. I left plenty of room for big hands to have room for sanding as well as room for using the Dremel inside there too. The air is pulled directly off the hands into the vacuum cleaner. It works just fine, and if anyone wants more details I'd be glad to try and help.



You can see a floor tool from an old vacuum cleaner attached to the back and attached to the tool is a hepa-filtered vacuum cleaner. I may decide to place an ordinary fly-screen over the opening . . .



another look from the front. . .the mug is a 12 oz one for size reference

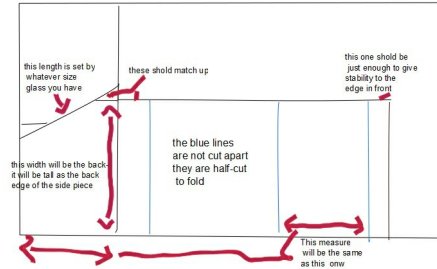


and oh! these pics and the work was done inside our

paint booth! Just an FYI

Due to requests I have added a drawn-out plan that can be adjusted according to the piece of glass or Plexiglas you already have.

Schematic for Dusty Vacuum Chamber



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May 10th, 2010 | Tags: basic tools, dust chamber, hobby, Safety, Vacuum chamber | Category: Follow along, How-To, Tips and Techniques, Tools for Modelmaking | [Leave a comment](#)

FH Art





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April 18th, 2010 | Category: How-To | [Leave a comment](#)

German Field Kitchen Scenery

Tamiya 1/35 German Field Kitchen Scenery #35247



Tamiya - German Field Kitchen Scale: 1/35 #35103





These two kits both by Tamiya are very similar and a breeze to assemble. The top one has a number more food and fun items and 2 cooks and 2 hungry solders, the second comes with one Belgian horse and one other. I wanted a closer matched pair so I assembled and began modifying the other. Then I plan to place this in a diorama with other kits or parts, so this should be a fun one to follow to see where it will go.

to be continued . . .

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April 11th, 2010 | Category: Follow along, Manufacturers, Reference, Review - Buiness, Review - Model, Review - Reference, Tips and Techniques, Tools for Modelmaking | [Leave a comment](#)

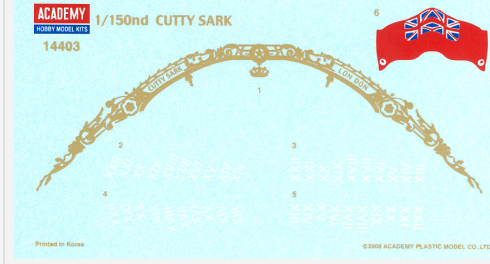
The Itch to Etch!

I love those delicately photo-etched brass pieces. I began to think. . .well why not create a few of my own. Mostly it also became a “need” after I botched a decal on my model ship The Cutty Sark. I had spent days researching. At first I didn’t know there was a difference between electro-etching and a chemical bath etch. It took a bit of time to discover the different methods for transferring your image to metal. I found that most of the DIY’s out there are laying out electronic PCB boards, and that their supplies of copper boards come attached to some fiberglass type of board.

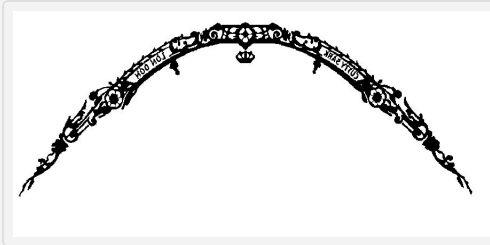
I have created my own Colodial Silver before and intend to do so again and I read that this etching . . .well the electro-etching is much of a similar nature so I was not intimidated in the least. I had used a suitable wall wort cut of the end and split the wire and attached clips. The electricity is so low there is no chance of getting hurt. I found 3 types of photo paper and have a lazer printer. I had other paper to try too, and I had read quite a lot and wanted to give it a go.

We sent away for some 36mm brass sheeting, and armed with enthusiasm, I was ready to try my hand at etching.

I found my image from a copy of the decal included with the kit. This one right here :}



I then imported it into my Paint Shop Pro and with a few keystrokes got this. . .well that look about right. . . I'll need to flip it the right way again, because in reading so much I knew that for a photo resisted development it has to be a reversed image. . . but more about that another time.



First job is to print out the image, but our dis-array life has the printer near the computer but not connected. . . opps! . . After some time I have it going. First I printed 2 images near the top of a multi-purpose photo paper, then a Premium high gloss and also a high gloss. For good measure I also printed on the front and back of a label sheet, and even an iron-on decal transfer sheet. That last one was not a good idea as it is intended for inkjet only and since ours is a laser printer, it just made a serious mess. All the others looked like good copy.

I sliced off 2 strips of the brass and further cut 1,1/2 by 2 inch pieces and prepared them by first wet-sanding with 2000 grit, washed them in detergent cleaned with alcohol and finished with a touch of vinegar, and laid them on a paper towel awaiting their lamination. I turned on my iron and heated up my board.

My first three attempts met with disaster and pretty much failure. I started with the most promising, the premium high gloss. The paper was stiff an unwieldy and there was no transferring at all. The next was the high gloss. It too is quite stiff, but with persistence there was some transfer, but it was not stuck on very much. I then tried the low grade semi-gloss photo paper and had more transfer. Alas when I tried to remove the backing it came away in some areas.

For a lark I now attempted the front and back of the label paper but nothing came of that. The third ball was a hit, however even if it was not a home-run! I re-cleaned the brass and worked extra carefully to fix my image to the plate. After a long time. . .about 3 minutes I felt ready to test the piece. It worked!! Now I was ready to apply the chemistry.

I had assembled Muriatic acid, pickling salt, and copper sulfide, distilled water, a variable transformer with snaps to attach leads to ad plastic containers, plastic tweezers, and wood stir sticks. I made a saturated brine with both the copper sulfide crystals and did the same with the

pickling salt. I wasn't sure if I was going to settle on one method over another and I wanted to be sure I had everything ready to try out. I set up the variable transformer and attached the leads, and set up a container of pure salt brine to see if I could make a brine electro etch. I opened a window and turned on the exhaust fan, I arranged my workspace and donned my gloves.

Since I had worked so hard to get just one sample plate to laminate, I decided to hand draw some small heart with an acrylic resist and mounted it in pure salt brine with a small current running through it. I was itching to get something to etch, and I didn't want to sacrifice my first. .uh. . . almost successful lamination. After 20 minutes nothing happened. OK- maybe I had misunderstood; and went back to study some more. I decided I had misunderstood and that the brine was enough.

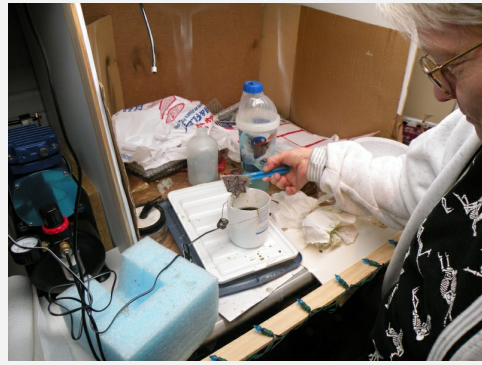
Now I understood that you had to get the process started by adding hydrogen peroxide. According to my information I needed to add 1 measure to the amount of brine, which I did. . CAREFULLY! and soon I began to see an amber color. After another 2 hours there was little visible of etching happening anytime soon, so I shut it all off laid the piece in a dish of water with baking soda to kill all the action. . . .back to the reading, grr!

(to be continued) Like many post this will be an on-going one and I will be adding to this as I move forward. . . all comments and help will be considered and appreciated. Etching is a new field for me and I am merely logging my experiments as they occur. It is my understanding that one is allowed to fail many times in order to succeed! I plan to succeed eventually!!

Well with some persistence I did get results. . . acceptable for now, so I intend to pursue this further sometime soon.



here is a continuation of etching learning curve I decided to try a very simple design in 32 wt brass.



I decided to go with copper sulfate solution electrically charged at 9 volts

Here we can see that it is beginning to work about 20 minutes in



Beginning to see holes!! . . . that's a good sign and my image is still intact.

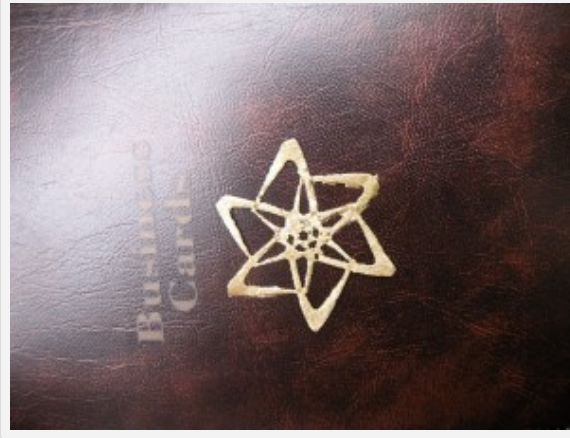


At this point I would consider it pretty much done



This is about 4 hours in. and below is

what it finished out like, I gave it an inked gold finish that has bled out a little upon the back ground, but the edges are fairly good but I would like to get a much more professional result with very crisp fine lines... the quest will continue . . .



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March 7th, 2010 | Tags: electro etching, photo-etched brass | Category: How-To, Tips and Techniques | 8 comments

German Cossack Calvery side by side generation comparison

Kits are both built by Dragon. First inspection shows dramatic differences. Clearly there is much better detail in the second generation as well as major structure pieces. I will break this down by listing each for advantages and disadvantages as I see them.

First generation

Plastic is thinner but inflexible and brittle

head and neck molded in one piece, and the body cavity in two; that are difficult to assemble due to gaps in places. I pre-softened the edges by applying liberal amounts of Tamyia extra thin glue press and hold and reapplying glue to continue to soften and close most of the spaces.

The ears are molded to attach separately to the top of the head but unfortunately the shapes do not match and I even tried them in all various ways trying to find a better fit. In the end I set them in place the best way possible using white putty to "glue" them. I re-wet the edges to ensure a good seal and fit. One hardened for a day I will re-sculpt what I can.



set a -German Cossack Calvary



Second generation

Plastic is thick but ply-able which makes cleaning the seams a snap. the kit has 4 heads to choose from in 2 distinct poses. . nice touch

Body and neck molded in 2 pieces with internal guides which makes assembly a no brainer. Here the rear , mane are molded separately and I took a Dremel stone bur to it to thin it out from the underside to significantly reduce the material.



set b2 -German Cossack Calvary

This is a post in progress. . . meaning that as I continue this project I will be adding to it!

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January 17th, 2010 | Category: How-To, Review - Model |
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Major Art & Hobby - Davenport, Iowa



"I've been shopping at Major Art and Hobby in Davenport since sometime in the

*1970's, when I was but a wee lad." -
Panzer Hunter*



Major Art & Hobby outside view from - <http://www.waymarking.com>

Many of the supplies and models featured at 1to35.com were purchased at Major Art and Hobby of Davenport, Iowa.

The incredible growth of the internet, giving consumers the ability to shop for deals and bargains with just a few clicks of a mouse, has at least contributed to the demise of a number of other hobby stores.

While we do avail ourselves of the vast resources to be found online, we also frequent our local hobby store, and want to encourage anyone reading this blog to frequent their local hobby store.

Not only do local stores like Major Art and Hobby provide a convenient and immediate source of supplies and models, this store also provides a place for modellers to re-sell kits that might otherwise go un-built, and a venue for a newly formed modelling club.

Major Art and Hobby can pretty conveniently serve the entire Quad City metropolitan area, being centrally located in historic downtown Davenport, Iowa, not far from either the Centennial and Arsenal Bridges across the Mississippi River into Rock Island, Illinois.

Please note – as with all business reviews found at 1to35.com – this is an unsolicited posting – the website and post author have no business interest or financial association with the reviewed business entity. Nor is this posting meant to imply that the business in question endorses 1to35.com, or its content. The authors of 1to35.com are solely responsible for any opinions represented in this review.

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January 7th, 2010 | Tags: Davenport, Davenport Iowa, Iowa, Major Art and Hobby | Category: Review - Buiness |
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Pleased to meet you!

I am the eldest of 6 born to Mennonite farming people, and grew up without a lot of disposable money, but that never stopped me from developing strong artistic qualities. . . in some ways similar to third-world artists, the lack of financial ability enriched my imaginations, and prepared me to continue my creative endeavors by engaging innovative techniques. One of my earliest artistic expression was in fact inspired and encouraged by my Dad who wrote letters in German to his parents who lived 1500 miles away. I was still pre-school and my Grandfather began to draw small animals in the margins of his letter for my benefit. He knew that it was a language I could understand and he encouraged me to send him pictures back, so with the supportive prompting of my father I learned some basic skills of drawing realistically before I ever formed the letters of the strange language of English, as we only spoke German in our home.

The primary mindset in a Mennonite home is all work is by far more important; that entertainment is secondary, and ours was no different. My dad valued music and art because he felt that he did not have an artistic nor musical bone. However I saw him as very creative and innovative , because he only went to school until the 6th grade but he gathered wisdom and knowledge all his life. Those values have stood the test of time for me also as I consider myself a life-time learner. What more satisfying thing is there than creating something in your mind and expressing it with your hands?

There were not elaborate supplies, but pencils and wax crayons abounded. I would draw and color my pictures then melt off the wax leaving only the colors by sliding my paper across the oil-heater that kept us warm on winter nights. So impressed were my parents that they showed off my work to visitors. and my dad made a few wooden frames for my pieces. One day I came upon an old time life magazine about Faberge eggs made for kings in Austria, and I was sold. I did my best to figure out how to make those, and without knowing any techniques or having any tools and only using what I could scavenge I actually created some hinged eggs of which only one survived from then. I spent 3 very happy years in a darkroom in my high school years, I had the use of a 35

mm camera that our High-school principle generously loaned me, so I rolled my own and developed and created photographs of which many were published in the year books and I entered contests which routinely placed well. Later, I entered a drawing contest and won later on which landed me in a 3 year Art's College.

Dreams are born and sometimes die young in our life. I married before I reached 20 and the cares of life did not allow me to complete my course, and hobbies went to the back. . . the very back! One year however I was given a model of a 20th century Spanish Galleon tall ship, and a new hobby became mine. Over years and many moves the poor thing completely obliterated, for lack of a camera, I stopped taking pictures, and I had no time to color and draw. The songs in my heart died.

Then came the dawning, I met a very sweet lady with whom I became very good friends. She was the essence

of the
very
life I
had
once



Specialized paint area

dreamed and it was directly due to her that one by one the things that I once enjoyed returned. Often, however when you have left or abandoned the very things that once motivated you, a part of your inner spirit dies. You may be a different person in some ways. Not everyone can accept those changes. Sometimes those changes can affect your relationships and possibly erode them. Unfortunately that did happen to me.

Sometimes a door closes and a window opens. Such is my lot. I found a soul mate and friend who is urging me to explore life once again. I was initially drawn to him because he was writing and his material was very well documented and researched. He has the most incredible World War 2 book collection that rivals most teaching professional libraries.

Michael is far more than his collection of books and amassed knowledge of World War II. he is an incredible speaker, and I love to listen to his baritone voice whether teaching me some history, or as he often does when he breaks into spontaneous song. Often he makes us his own lyrics, which demonstrates his wonderfully humorous side.

Being an only child, he is his mother's keeper. We are tied to an elderly patient full time, therefore we make sure we use some of our time modeling and researching while often football games, or adult cartoons run in the background. When Robot Chicken makes it's appearance, we know that it is time to wrap up the day and go to bed.

We find that we often infect one another with ideas and inspiration, and it is amazing how some tool or technique crosses from one hobby to another, and we have already applied some technique that was learned in some other application can make a frustrating chore a simple matter.

I am so fortunate!

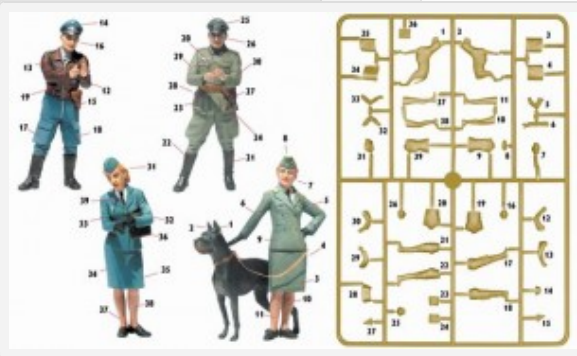
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December 25th, 2009 | Category: Uncategorized | [Leave a comment](#)

Women at War MB kit#83557



Fascinating set with 2 women a dog and 2 guys. At first glance it appears to be a well cast kit. The instructions are vague. . they are on the back of the box. you get what you see.



I chose to begin with the dog. It had a large gap that needed extensive patching, and it appears to have seam lines from a previous work that have been cast into the current version, so those also have to be smoothed out.

I managed to get a



result that was satisfactory but I am sure that a novice modeler may very well have had a tougher time of it. The detailing on the people is standard; the women have



masculine structured legs and faces, and the preformed skirts are much too thick and they didn't fit right anyway so I discarded them in favor of heavier paper with white glue on both sides. I allowed the glued strips to dry to the touch but still flexible and shape-able which allowed for a better appearance. I also reshaped the faces to resemble more feminine features, and gave them better ears. The cast-line is just behind and over the ear, so it is essential to pay attention to those parts.



The features on this woman as depicted by the artist are pretty accurate. In my opinion they are unfeminine and ugly. No amount of makeup is going to fix that! . . . I refined their feature to soften them. . . now that's plastic surgery!!!

this post is ongoing. . . meaning as I complete the project I will be adding details!

Paint Thinners and Solvents Guide

There was a very concise article on a site we found at <http://www.do-it-yourself-help.com/> which we have borrowed in full leaving their internal links intact for our viewers benefit. . . enjoy!

Paints are generally intended to be used straight from the container. Thinning is usually not required or recommended. However, when paint has been exposed to air for some time it may be necessary to thin it. Some oil or alkyd paints may "drag" when applied straight from the container and therefore will require thinning to make application easier. Thinning may also be necessary when using a sprayer to apply paint. Below is a list of thinners and solvent for the most commonly used paints, etc. Use the same product for cleaning equipment and spills.



Acetone This is a very strong solvent. It is used to dissolve superglue, nail polish, epoxies and spray foam insulation. Use a soaking bath to remove old paint from metal hardware. See **Removing Paint from Hardware** for more. Care should be taken when using acetone as it will dissolve many surfaces including paint and furniture finishes. Available at paint and hardware stores. Nail polish remover may be used as a substitute.

Denatured Alcohol Used for shellac-based primers and sealers as well as alcohol-based stains. Also used to clean and purify many surface before priming or painting. Available at paint and hardware stores. Rubbing alcohol may be used as a substitute, in a pinch.

Japan Drier Use this product to speed drying of oil and alkyd products. Because it shortens drying time significantly the coating must be applied quickly. Only a small amount should be used to avoid altering the color of paints or varnishes. Available at paint stores.

Lacquer Thinner Used for lacquer paint and finishes. This product is very effective for removing old paint from metal hardware when a soaking bath is used. See **Removing Paint from Hardware** for more. Care should be taken when using lacquer thinner as it will dissolve many surfaces including paint and furniture finishes. Both lacquer coatings and lacquer thinner evaporate very quickly and are highly flammable. Avoid long exposure to fumes. Available at paint and hardware stores.

Linseed Oil This is the vehicle or base for oil paints and stains. Coat bare wood surfaces with linseed oil to seal them before an alkyd or oil paint finish is applied. This will greatly extend the life of the coating. Available at paint stores.

Mineral Spirits Used to thin alkyd and oil paints, stains and primers. This may also be called petroleum spirits or varsol. Because it is virtually odorless it has replaced turpentine for use with oil and alkyd paints. Available at paint stores.

Naptha Used to thin oil and alkyd paints especially when dragging is a problem. This is a petroleum product which can also be used to clean surfaces before painting or applying a clear finish. Also use this product to remove wax and furniture polish build-up. Available at paint stores.

Turpentine Replaced by mineral spirits for cleaning and thinning oil and alkyd based products. High odor makes turpentine undesirable in most situations. Available at paint stores.

Water Used to clean-up and thin latex and other water-based products.

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December 15th, 2009 | Tags: lacquers, minseral sirits, Paints, Solvents | Category: How-To, Paints, Thinners, and Solvents | [Leave a comment](#)

Page 1 of 2 **1** **2** »